

Restoring Broken Relationships

Study Notes

Opportunities for further study:

1. II Corinthians 5:18
2. James 4:1-2

1. Why does my response to conflict matter?

Jesus makes it clear that his disciples should be trying to make peace and restore relationships.

Read Matthew 5:9

- Why do you think people who try to make peace are blessed (or happy)?

Read I Corinthians 10:31-33

- How does conflict open up an opportunity to glorify God?
- When we are wronged by an unbeliever, what should be our goal while resolving the conflict? When it's a believer?

Read Proverbs 16:28 and 17:9. How does success or failure in dealing with conflict affect the course of your life?

2. Where does conflict come from?

Conflict comes as a result of sin. See Genesis 3:11-19. Conflict also comes from within us—our sinful nature.

Our tendency in conflict is to immediately point out the ways in which the other person has offended us. But we all need to look at ourselves first—at our own failings and how our actions and attitudes may have contributed to the conflict—before we go out and try to fix others.

Read Matthew 7:3-5

- Why is it important that we ask God to check our own heart and actions first before we address faults in someone else?

3. How can I work to restore a broken relationship?

Address them with gentleness and humility, desiring to restore them to Christ.

Read Galatians 6:1.

- What can happen if I try to restore a sinning believer without gentleness?
Without humility? Without being Spirit filled?

Step one in restoring a broken relationship involves personally going to the one who has wronged you and seeking direct reconciliation.

Read Matthew 18:15-16.

- Why do you think it is so hard to do Step 1—go to the person directly?
- Who could you ask for spiritual backup, if you need to go to Step 2—go to the person with witnesses?

Who has God put on your heart that you need to reach to restore a broken relationship?